

Ashby-de-la-Zouch  
Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Proposed Amendment

Article 10 of the Constitution

1911

# **Annual Report.**

---

## **Medical Officer of Health.**

---

### **1944.**

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.**

- (1) Medical Officer of Health (Part time) — THOMAS FORSYTH, M.B.  
Ch.B. (Glas), D.P.H. (Camb.)
- (2) Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (Full time)—GEORGE E. MARLOW, M. Inst.  
M and CY.E.Cert.R.S.

To

The Chairman and Members of the  
Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report on the Sanitary State of your District for the year 1944, on behalf of the late Dr. Forsyth.

#### **SECTION A :—**

##### **STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

Area	...	...	...	6,190 acres.
Population	...	...	...	5,868
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	1,774
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£36,087
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£143 18s. 10d.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the Districts are :—

Agriculture, Coalmining, Earthenware, Brickmaking and Biscuit making. No industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population.

# VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	Total	Male	Female.
Legitimate	105	54	51
Illegitimate	7	3	4
	—	—	—
	112	57	55
	—	—	—

Birth Rate—19.08 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Birth Rate, 1944—17.6 per 1,000 population.

Still Births	Total	Male	Female.
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	—	—	—
	1	1	-
	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate—8.85 per 1,000 (live and still) Births ; or Still Birth Rate—0.17 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Still Birth Rate, 1944—0.50 per 1,000 population.

## DEATHS.

Total	Male	Female
63	32	31

Death Rate—10.92 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Death Rate, 1944—11.6 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Rate per 1,000 total  
Live and Still Births.

	Deaths	Ashby Urban Districts	England and Wales, 1944.
(a) From Sepsis	-	-	0.68
(b) From other Causes	-	-	1.25
	—	—	—
	-	-	1.93
	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :-

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	2	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	—	—	—
	2	2	-
	—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate—17.86 per 1,000 Live Births.

England and Wales Infant Mortality Rate, 1944—46 per 1,000 Live Births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants—19.05 per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births.

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants—Nil per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.

Deaths occurred from the following diseases during 1944 :—

Cancer (all ages)	13
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 yrs.)	-

#### Causes of Death in 1944.

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	1	1
Influenza	—	—	—
Cancer (Stomach and Duodenal)	2	—	2
Cancer (Breast)	—	1	1
Cancer (all other sites)	5	5	10
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial Vasc. Lesions	6	2	8
Heart Disease	8	11	19
Other Circ. Diseases	2	2	4
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Ulcer (Stomach and Duodenal)	2	—	2
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Nephritis	—	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1	1
Premature Birth	1	—	1
Congenital Malf : etc.	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes	—	—	—
All other Causes	3	5	8
	—	—	—
	32	31	63
	—	—	—

Chief Causes of Death in 1944 :—

Heart Disease 19—Cancer 13—Intracranial vascular lesions 8—Bronchitis 3

Ulcer (Stomach and duodenal)—2.

## SECTION B

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

#### HOSPITALS.

**Fever.** Hospitals are provided by the Leicestershire Combined Hospitals Committee.

**Smallpox.** Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Syston and Snarestone.

**Tuberculosis.** The County Sanatorium at Markfield with 138 beds is adequately equipped for the diagnosis and treatment of all types of Tuberculosis.

**Maternity.** Provision is made for cases requiring Institutional treatment in the Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital, and in Leicester Royal Infirmary. Ashby Cottage Hospital Maternity Wing is much used by residents from your Area and from the surrounding Areas. Fairhaven Nursing and Maternity Home is also available for cases of Midwifery.

**Children.** Children are admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary and Loughborough Infirmary. Ashby Cottage Hospital admit children and many cases of enlarged Tonsils and Appendices are operated on by the Honorary Surgeon, Mr. R. Bewick, F.R.C.S.

**Other.** Delicate and ill-nourished children are admitted at the Children's Convalescent Home, Woodhouse Eaves.

#### Laboratory Facilities :—

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations are provided by the County Council Laboratory, Leicester.

#### Ambulance Facilities :—

Infectious Diseases are removed by Ambulances provided by the Leicestershire Combined Isolation Hospitals Committee.

Non-Infectious Diseases, and Civilian accidents. The St. Johns' Ambulance Brigade (Coalville) provides an Ambulance. The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council also provides an Ambulance Service.

Colliery accidents are provided with Ambulances maintained by the Colliery Owners Association.

#### Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

These are provided by the County Council. An Infant Welfare Centre is held weekly in the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The nearest School Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville. An Orthopaedic Clinic is held at Bridge Road, Coalville. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held weekly at Coalville. Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary.



## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### Water Supply.

The whole District is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Joint Water Committee from the Milton Water Works. There are still a few wells in use. No samples were taken for analysis during the year.

No. of wells closed—Nil. Number of wells cleansed—Nil.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water—3.

Number of parishes with piped water supply :—

- (a) From Public Mains—Whole area.
- (b) From Private Reservoirs—Nil.

Number of parishes without a piped water supply—Nil.

The quality of the existing supplies is satisfactory. It has been necessary on a number of occasions to restrict water supplies owing to a shortage of water at the source of supply. Steps are being taken to obtain additional sources of supply.

No extensions of the Public Water supply were carried out in 1944.

Arrangements have been made with adjoining Local Authorities to provide a supply of water in case of emergency.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

Number of cesspools constructed during the year—Nil.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year—Nil.

Total number of cesspools in District on 31st Dec., 1944—147.

Particulars of any extension during the year :—

- (a) Sewerage—Nil.
- (b) Sewage disposal—Nil.
- (c) Particulars of any scheme which is at present under consideration—a scheme is in course of preparation for the sewerage of Blackfordby, and the extension of Willesley Sewage Disposal Works.

### Closet Accommodation.

Total number in District on 31st December, 1944 :—

- (a) Privies..... 68
- (b) Pail-closets .....55
- (c) Water closets ... 1,119

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year:

- (a) Privies .....Nil.
- (b) Pail-closets .....Nil.

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year :—3

## Public Cleansing.

House refuse is collected weekly by Council workmen with a covered motor vehicle, and conveyed to a tip where it is deposited in shallow layers, and covered with earth.

Earth closets, privies, and ashpits are cleansed by Council workmen, the contents being disposed of on arable land, and ploughed in.

No noticeable strain has been put on the Sanitary Services due to the Evacuation Scheme, or other causes.

## Salvage.

Salvage is collected weekly by the Local Authority.

The classes of salvage material collected are paper, rags, bones, and scrap iron.

The collection of salvage lengthens the period of refuse collection by one day in each week.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of complaints received ..... 50.

Total number of defects and nuisances discovered 176.

### Particulars of Inspections Made.

Type of Inspection			Number of Inspections			Number of Revisits
Air-Raid Shelters	...	12	...	...	—	
Animal Keeping	...	6	...	...	2	
Bakehouses	...	6	...	...	1	
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	34	...	...	10	
Drainage Works	...	16	...	...	3	
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	95	...	...	...	29	
Food Premises	...	46	...	...	20	
Offensive Trades	...	2	...	...	—	
Rats and Mice Destruction	25	...	...	...	4	
Refuse Collection and						
Disposal	...	54	...	...	10	



Schools	...	...	4	...	...	
Shops	...	...	16	...	...	4
Slaughter Houses, and Meat Inspection			16	...	...	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc....			1	...	...	—
Verminous Premises, and Scabies			5	...	...	2
Water Supplies	...	...	10	...	...	4
Workshops, etc.	...	...	14	...	...	4
Other Inspections	...		48	...	...	—
Totals	...	...	410	...	...	93

### Results of Notices Sent.

#### Preliminary Notices.

			Housing		Other
Outstanding on 1st January, 1944	...	8	...	...	8
Issued during year	...	48	...	...	72
Complied with during year	...	41	...	...	75
Statutory action necessary	...	9	...	...	—
Outstanding 31st December, 1944	...	6	...	...	5

#### Statutory Notices.

Outstanding on 1st. January 1944.	...	2	...	...	—
Issued during year	...	9	...	...	—
Complied with during year	...	7	...	...	—
Outstanding 31st December, 1944	...	4	...	...	—

#### Summary Action :

Number of summonses issued—Nil. Number of convictions obtained—Nil.

## Shops

Particulars of action taken during year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

	Outstanding 1st Jan., 1944	Defects found	Defects remedied	Outstanding 31st Dec., 1944
Sanitary Conveniences	—	1	4	—
Temperature	—	—	—	—
Ventilation	—	—	—	—

## Camping Sites

Nil.

## Regulated Buildings

Class of Building	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Action Taken	General Conditions
Common Lodging Houses	Nil.	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	1	1	—	—
Canal Boats	Nil.	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	Nil.	—	—	—

## Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Particulars of action taken :—

Number of Council Houses infested	...	...	...	1
Number of other dwelling houses infested	...	...	...	1
Number of houses disinfested	...	...	...	2

The disinfestation was carried out by the Local Authority by means of fumigation with Cimex and spraying Zaldecide fluid. There were no removals to Council houses during the year.

## Schools.

Number of schools disinfested—3

## Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public.

No. in Area :—

(a) Publicly owned	...	1
(b) Privately owned	...	Nil.

The Swimming Pool is closed for the duration of the war.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### Milk Supply

#### Cowkeepers

Number on Register	...	...	...	37
Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	30
Number of contraventions outstanding from				
previous year				3
Number of contraventions found during the year				10
Number of contraventions remedied during year				11
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st.				
Dec., 1944	...			2

#### Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than cowkeepers)

Number on Register	...	...	...	10
Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	14
Number of contraventions outstanding from				
previous year				—
Number of contraventions found during year				4
Number of contraventions remedied during year				3
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st Dec.,				
1944				1

### Total Contraventions.

Type of Contravention	Outstanding from previous year	Found during year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on 31st. Dec. 1944.
Cleansing	2	6	7	1
Structural Alterations	1	3	2	2
Utensils	—	3	3	—
Other	—	2	2	—

### Milk Sampling

Class of Milk	Total samples taken for bact. exam'n	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—
Accredited	—	—	—
Pasteurised	6	5	1
Ordinary	10	7	3

## The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936—1941.

Two licences were issued during the year, one for a Pasteurising Plant, and one for Supplementary Retail Distribution of Pasteurised Milk.

The Pasteurising Plant for which the Licence was issued, was of the Holder type, capacity 100 gallons per hour, hand temperature controlled.

Number of Plants for heating milk not licensed as Pasteurising Plants  
Nil.

Number of Authorities issued by Ministry of Food under Regulation 55G:—

(a) Heat Treatment—Nil. (b) Sterilisation—Nil.

## Meat and Other Foods.

No. of Regional Slaughter Houses in Area	...	...	Nil
No. of animals slaughtered in Area	...	...	—
No. of animals examined in Area	...	...	—
No. of animals slaughtered elsewhere	...	...	—
No. of animals examined elsewhere	...	...	—
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	...	...	—
No. of Knackers Yards in Area	...	...	1
No. of visits to Knackers Yards	...	...	4

## Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

Number killed	...	16 pigs
Number inspected	...	16 pigs
Whole carcases condemned	...	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	2

No carcase was found to be affected with Tuberculosis.

## Meat Stalls

Number of Inspections	...	Nil
-----------------------	-----	-----

## Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.

Number of Inspections	...	36
-----------------------	-----	----

**Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale.**

Number of Inspections ... .. 30

**Action taken :—**

The following is a list of food condemned and destroyed :—

Meat	...	...	57 lbs.
Sausage		...	112 lbs.
Bacon			53 lbs.
Rabbits	...	...	40
Milk	...	...	85 tins
Canned meat			48 tins
Fish	...	...	30 tins
Jam	...	...	47 jars
Soup	...	...	11 tins
Vegetables		...	17 tins
Pork Pie		...	24 lbs.

## HOUSING.

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	79
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	124
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above ) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation ... ..	35

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	24
---	----

### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	7
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil



(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil

**4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART 4—OVERCROWDING :—**

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	5
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	8
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	40
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	...	...	...	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	7
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	Nil

**POST WAR HOUSING.**

Negotiations are well advanced for the acquisition of 17 acres of land at Ashby de-la-Zouch and 7 acres at Blackfordby for Housing purposes. The approximate number of houses which the Council propose to erect is 200.

**ADVANCE PREPARATION OF HOUSING SITES.**

Layout Plans of the sites and detailed Plans of roads, sewers and Water mains are in course of preparation.

**Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

**Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1944.**

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	8	5	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—

Measles	2	-
Chicken Pox	17	--

### **Scarlet Fever**

The number of cases notified was rather higher than usual, but the incidence conformed with the remainder of the County. Case rate 1.36 per thousand population : case rate for England and Wales 2.40.

### **Diphtheria**

A pleasing feature was the complete absence of Diphtheria during the year. A Scheme of immunisation against Diphtheria has been in operation since the beginning of 1941.

### **Tuberculosis**

Two respiratory cases were notified (1 male, 1 female), but none of other forms of Tuberculosis. There were no deaths.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

### **General**

The District is fortunate in possessing two well equipped parks (14 acres in all) for open air sport and recreation.

### **Conclusion**

My grateful thanks are due to the valuable assistance of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. E. Marlow, and to the County Health Department. To the County Health Department I am particularly indebted as this Report would have been impossible to compile without their whole hearted co-operation.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.







